

Geodesy

2015 GA meeting in Vienna

In 2015, the Geodesy Division operated a total of 14 sessions scheduled over the whole week. The sessions were well attended. Although for the most of the sessions the lecture rooms were sufficiently large, for a few established sessions, namely G2.1: “The Global Geodetic Observing System: Unifying Geodesy in General and Height Systems in Particular” and G2.2: “The International Terrestrial Reference Frame: Elaboration, Usage and Applications”, the assigned room was definitely too small. The Geodesy Division had 333 submitted abstracts – almost 20% less than in 2014! As a crucial reason for this regression upcoming symposia such as the IUGG 2015 in Prague have been identified. As in previous years, the most popular sessions (by number of abstracts and by number of participants) were related to gravity field research and gravity satellite missions. This year two sessions, namely G1.2: “Mathematical methods for the analysis of potential field data and geodetic time series” as well as G6.1: “Open session on Geodesy” were scheduled as PICO sessions, and like the years before, the response was predominantly positive. There is clearly an increase regarding the acceptance of PICO sessions within the geodetic community noticeable.

This year the Outstanding Young Scientist Award was awarded to Krzysztof Sośnica for his innovative contributions in combining Satellite Laser Ranging and Global Navigation Satellite Systems to improve the quality of geodetic key parameter estimates. During the Division Meeting he gave a presentation entitled “Contribution of Satellite Laser Ranging to Space Geodesy”. Furthermore, Adria Rovira-Garcia was decorated with the Outstanding Student Poster (OSP) award for the poster entitled “Fast-PPP assessment in European and equatorial region near the Solar Cycle maximum” presented at the EGU GA 2014.

Furthermore, we honored Carl Christian Tscherning, who passed away unexpectedly at 24 October 2014, as one of the most famous geodesists of the last decades. He was awarded with the Vening Meinesz Medal in 2008.

2015 Vening Meinesz Medal

This year’s Vening Meinesz Medal was awarded to Geoffrey Blewitt for his pioneering developments in geodetic theory, for advancing the Global Positioning System (GPS) for scientific research and applications, and for his outstanding contributions in applying geodesy to study geophysical and climate processes. He gave a great medal lecture entitled “Three decades of harnessing the GPS data explosion for geophysics?” during the conference.

Geodesy Division officers and committees

Johannes Böhm (Vienna University of Technology, Austria) and Adrian Jäggi (University of Bern, Switzerland) are the two deputy presidents of the Geodesy Division according to the EGU by-laws. Whereas Johannes Böhm was appointed for his second 2-years term, Adrian Jäggi was appointed for his first 2-years term and replaces Johannes Bouman. Furthermore, Roelof Rietbroek (University of Bonn, Germany) is the Young Scientist Representative of the Geodesy Division.

The Vening Meinesz medal committee consists of the four past medalists as well as the Geodesy Division President and the EGU Awards Committee chair (both non-voting). The last year's medalist is chairing the committee. The 2016 committee consists of: Geoffrey Blewitt (1), Reinhard Dietrich (2), Zuheir Altamimi (3, chair), and Che-Kwan Shum (4), in addition to myself and Alberto Montanari (Awards Committee Chair).

The Outstanding Young Scientist Award committee consists of the division president, the two deputy presidents and the latest medalist (Krzysztof Sońnica). The Outstanding Student Poster Award committee consists of the division president and the two deputy presidents. All committees were approved unanimously during the Division Meeting. The Programme Group for the 2016 General Assembly consists of the division president, the two deputy presidents, the young scientist representative and one or two others to cover the whole field of geodesy.

Upcoming issues

The preparation of the next EGU GA will start soon: the skeleton programme for the Geodesy Division could be based on this year's successful sessions, but also new sessions are welcome! In this context the following items are important:

- Co-organised sessions strengthen the interdisciplinary character of EGU; in 2015 there was an increase of co-organised sessions in the Geodesy Division of 200% with respect to 2014
- The total number of sessions within the Geodesy Division should be around 12 to ensure large and strong sessions run at the conference
- PICO sessions are independent of oral slots and should be considered as an appropriate alternative
- When choosing conveners and chairs, the gender diversity, the diversity in countries/institutes, and the inclusion of younger scientists should be given strong consideration; especially the established sessions should add young (co-)conveners to the conveners group
- A minimum of three conveners for each session is generally desirable

I look forward to hearing your session suggestions!

Michael Schmidt

Geodesy Division President